

• The Kingdom of God is where you find the **presence** of God.

...your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.... Matthew 6:10 (NIV)

• Our love for people can lead us to be tolerant of sin.

Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—<u>none of these</u> will inherit the Kingdom of God. Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NLT)

• How we live matters to the King.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Matthew 5:8 (NIV)

What pure in heart does not mean:

• Pure in heart is not about being perfect or sinless.

Definition of Pure = Clean, undivided and authentic.

Purity refers to an on-going cleansing process in us.

Definition of Heart - refers to our inner man.

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)

A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart. Luke 6:45 (NLT)

• God is more concerned with your heart than your actions.

...from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander. Matthew 15:19 (NLT)

The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? Jeremiah 17:9 (NLT)

Here's the good news:

God makes us pure through Jesus' death.

...Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin. 1 Corinthians 1:30 (NLT)

• Without Jesus, the best we can do is modify our behavior.

We can do the **<u>right</u>** things with the **<u>wrong</u>** motives.

You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." Matthew 15:7-8 (NIV)

How terrible for you, teachers of the law and Pharisees! You are hypocrites! You wash the outside of your cups and dishes, but inside they are full of things you got by cheating others and by pleasing only

yourselves. Pharisees, you are blind! First make the inside of the cup clean, and then the outside of the cup can be truly clean. How terrible for you, teachers of the law and Pharisees! You are hypocrites! You are like tombs that are painted white. Outside, those tombs look fine, but inside, they are full of the bones of dead people and

all kinds of unclean things. It is the same with you. People look at you and think you are good, but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and evil. Matthew 23:25-28 (NIV)

• We can look the **part** without the **heart**.

How the Pharisee's blew it:

• Their **image** before others was more important than their **heart** before God.

No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, it is a change of heart produced by the Spirit. And a person with a changed heart seeks praise from God, not from people. Romans 2:29 (NLT)

Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 16:7b (NIV)

• They <u>tried</u> to change themselves rather than <u>accept</u> the one who could change them. Cleanse me of my wickedness, and I will be clean. If You wash me, I will be whiter than snow... Create in me a clean heart, O God; restore within me a sense of being brand new. Psalm 51:7,10

David understood that it's easier to be in **control** than to be surrendered.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life. Psalm 139:23-24 (NLT)

How to let God change our heart:

• We open our hearts to be fully **known** by God.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Psalm 139:23 (NLT)

• We surrender ourselves rather than manage ourselves.

Point out anything in me that offends you,... Psalm 139:24a (NLT)

• We <u>follow</u> God, not the crowd.

...and lead me along the path of everlasting life. Psalm 139:24b (NLT)

A pure heart produces:

• As God makes us clean we are able to see God's activity around us.

We don't go somewhere to see God, we become someone that can see God.



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE In a growing relationship with Jesus.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups: These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Discuss the definitions for Pure and Heart. Understanding these definitions, how would you rephrase the beatitude in your own words?
- Why is God more concerned with our heart than our actions? Why is our heart the real problem?
- What does it mean that God makes us pure through Jesus' death? How did that change you?
- Talk about how we can do the right things with the wrong motives. How do the wrong motives defile us? Read Matthew 15:11 (not in your notes) What does this mean?
- Do you agree that we can look the part without the heart? Why is that a danger for us to be aware of?
- Do you think we blow it like the Pharisee's? (Discuss the two points under the sub-heading "How the Pharisee's blew it") Is it easier to be in control rather than to be surrendered? Why?
- How do we open our hearts to be fully known by God, without it being a checklist item?
- Discuss how this kingdom attitude brings strength to our lives?



Opportunities to experience community:





Doing life together

Today's Talk..



Attitudes of the Kingdom pt.6

Sunday, November 5th, 2023

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